

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 6654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJ: MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRIMEMINISTER CARAMANLIS

1. DURING MY BRIEF FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, AFTER TAKING THE OCCASION OF EXPRESSING ONCE AGAIN HIS DEEP REGRET AT MY DEPARTURE FROM GREECE, PM SAID HE WISHED TO REITERATE HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO STRONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, GREEK PEOPLE HAD BEEN DEEPLY WOUNDED BY FAILURE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE TURKS. HE REPEATED VIEW THAT UNFORTUNATELY HE APPEARED TO BE THE LAST PRO-AMERICAN.

2. I INTERJECTED THAT THE U.S. AND GREECE NEEDED EACH OTHER AND THAT IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL VITAL INTEREST TO RESTORE WARM AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE AGREED BUT ADDED THAT U.S. HAD LET GREECE DOWN, REFERRING TO FAILURE OF US TO PREVENT TURKISH VIOLATIONS OF CEASE FIRE AFTER CLERIDES' REQUEST FOR A 36-HOUR PERIOD TO CONSIDER GOT PROPOSAL WHICH IN HIS VIEW CONSTITUTED A "BETRAYAL" OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT. GREECE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS BUT ONLY WITH HONOR AND NO HUMILIATION. US EFFORTS TO SETTLE CYPRUS ISSUE SHOULD BE PUBLIC AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE BY THE GREEK PEOPLE. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH EFFECTIVE PRESSURE BY THE U.S., CARAMANLIS FOUND THE

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OUTLOOK BLEAK. GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WAS BEHAVING LIKE

MILITARY VICTOR, A POSTURE GREEKS COULD NOT ACCEPT. PM ARGUED THAT IT WAS UP TO U.S. TO INDUCE TURKEY TO MAKE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS.

3. I MADE ALL THE USUAL POINTS IN RESPONSE INCLUDING THE FACT THAT WE NEEDED EACH OTHER AND WHILE EUROPE AND ITS COMPONENT COUNTRIES CLEARLY IMPORTANT TO THE U.S., NO REPEAT NO COUNTRY COULD TAKE THE PLACE OF THE U.S. IN GREECE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

4. I SAID I WAS GREATLY PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING HIM SO FREQUENTLY SINCE HIS RETURN TO POWER. I WAS ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT, I CONTINUED, THAT HE NOW HAD ASSUMED HIS PLACE AS ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF EUROPE. HE SAID HE CONSIDERED EUROPE VITAL TO GREECE, BUT HE ALSO CONSIDERED THE UNITED STATES VITAL TO EUROPE. HE RETURNED TO THE THEME THAT THE U.S. MUST GET TURKEY INTO LINE BECAUSE FAR MORE THAN CYPRUS WAS INVOLVED IN TURKISH POSTURE--REFUSAL TO SETTLE THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND TURKISH INSISTENCE UPON MILITARY INTERVENTION BEFORE THE POLITICAL PROCESS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE LONDON-ZURICH TREATY OF GUARANTEE CONSTITUTED A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE HOPES FOR WORLD PEACE, PARTICULARLY SINCE OBJECTIVE TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS SO CLEARLY IN CONFLICT WITH THE BASIC TREATY OF GUARANTEE SIGNED BY BRITAIN, GREECE AND TURKEY IN 1960. CARAMANLIS REITERATED THE THEME THAT GREECE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY SETTLEMENT INCONSISTENT WITH ITS CONCEPT OF NATIONAL HONOR OR INVOLVING NATIONAL HUMILIATION WHATEVER THE COSTS OF SUCH POSTURE MIGHT BE.

5. I DID NOT FIND ANYTHING PARTICULARLY NEW IN PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' POSITION, BUT I WOULD STRONGLY URGE USG TO GIVE THE MOST EARNEST CONSIDERATION TO HIS VIEWS BECAUSE I BELIEVE HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.

6. OUR CONVERSATION CLOSED WITH THE EXPRESSION OF MY PERSONAL HOPE THAT HE WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO VISIT THE U.S. SOON BECAUSE HE WAS GREATLY ADMIRER BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEY WERE MOST EAGER TO SHOW THE WARMTH AND
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DEPTH OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP. HE SAID HE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO DO SO BUT THAT AS LONG AS CYPRUS PRESENTED SUCH A SERIOUS PROBLEM, SUCH A VISIT WAS NOT POSSIBLE. TASCA

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